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## IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

In re:	) In Proceedings Under Chapter 11
BAPTIST FOUNDATION OF ARIZONA, an Arizona nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation, and related proceedings,	) Case Nos. 99-13275-ECF-GBN through 99- ) 13364-ECF-GBN
Debtors.	<ul><li>All Cases Jointly Administered Under Case</li><li>No. 99-13275-ECF-GBN</li></ul>
	DEBTORS' OBJECTION TO CLAIMS OF ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
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	) _) _)

Pursuant to Rule 3007 of the Bankruptcy Rules of Procedure and Section 502(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, Debtor and Debtor-in-Possession, Baptist Foundation of Arizona, Inc. (and certain of its subsidiaries, who also may be co-debtors, as applicable; collectively "**BFA**"), submits the following objection to the proofs of claim filed by the Arizona Department of Revenue ("**Department of Revenue**"). In support of this objection, BFA offers the following memorandum of points and authorities.

## MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF OBJECTION

## I. FACTS

On November 18, 1999, the Department of Revenue submitted a proof of claim in Case No. 99-13278-ECF-RGM (In re The Foundation Companies, Inc.) alleging corporate income tax due in the amount of \$30,000.00 (\$10,000.00 for each of the years 1996, 1997, and 1998). On the same date, the Department of Revenue submitted a similar proof of claim in Case No. 99-13275-ECF-GBN (In re Baptist Foundation of Arizona) also asserting unpaid corporate income tax of \$30,000.00, comprised of \$10,000.00 for each of the years 1996, 1997, and 1998. On both proofs of claim, the claimed amounts are set forth as "Estimated Tax Due to Non-Filing."

On March 2, 2000, the Department of Revenue submitted two proofs of claim in Case No. 99-13289-ECF-SSC (<u>In re Foundation Investments, Inc.</u>), one alleging unpaid sales tax for the month of October 1999 in the amount of \$301.67, and another alleging unpaid sales tax for the months of November and December 1999 in the total amount of \$603.34 (\$301.67 for each month). Again, the proofs of claim were based on an "Estimated Tax Due to Non-Filing."

On April 19, 2000, the Department of Revenue submitted two proofs of claim in Case No. 99-13347-ECF-GBN (In re Saddle Mountain Park, Inc.), one alleging corporate income tax due in the amount of \$30,000.00 (\$10,000.00 for each of the years 1996, 1997, and 1998), and another alleging a total amount due of \$9,562.52, comprised of: (i) claims for alleged unpaid sales tax, penalties, and interest for the months of October 1999 (totaling \$267.21), November 1999 (totaling \$75.47), February 2000 (totaling \$609.92), and March 2000 (totaling \$609.92); and (ii) claims for alleged unpaid withholding taxes of \$4,000 for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 1999, and another \$4,000 for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2000. On June 6, 2000, Claimant filed an Amended Proof of Claim in Case No. 99-13347-ECF-GBN (In re Saddle Mountain Park, Inc.) relating to the

allegedly unpaid sales and withholding taxes. In the Amended Proof of Claim, the total amount sought was reduced to \$322.27.

## II. LAW AND BASIS FOR OBJECTION

Objections to claims are governed by 11 U.S.C. § 502(a), which provides that "[a] claim or interest, proof of which is filed under section 501 of this title, is deemed allowed, unless a party in interest, . . . objects." Section 502(b) provides that "[i]f such objection to a claim is made, the court, after notice and a hearing, shall determine the amount of such claim in lawful currency of the United States as of the date of the filing of the petition, and shall allow such claim in such amount."

Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 3001(f) provides that a proof of claim filed in accordance with the rules "shall constitute prima facie evidence of the validity and amount of the claim." The burden of proof is on the objecting party to produce evidence equivalent in probative value to that of the creditor to rebut the prima facie effect of the proof of claim. However, "the ultimate burden of persuasion is always on the claimant." In Re Holm, 931 F.2d 620, 623 (9th Cir. 1991) (citing 3 L. King, *Collier on Bankruptcy* § 502.02, at 502-22 (15th ed. 1991) (footnotes omitted)).

A properly supported objection to a claim initiates a contested matter under the Bankruptcy Rules of Procedure. <u>See</u> Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3007 (adv. comm. note).

BFA objects to each of the above claims for the following reasons:

(i) Case Nos. 99-13278-ECF-RGM (<u>In re The Foundation Companies</u>, <u>Inc.</u>)

and 99-13275-ECF-GBN (<u>In re Baptist Foundation of Arizona</u>): BFA objects to the

Department of Revenue's allegations of unpaid corporate income taxes and failure to file in Case

No. 99-13278-ECF-RGM (<u>In re The Foundation Companies</u>, <u>Inc.</u>) on the ground that the subject taxes have been accounted for and paid as part of the consolidated income tax form filed by

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Foundation Administrative Services ("FAS"), which was filed for each of the years 1996, 1997, and 1998. BFA objects to the Department of Revenue's allegations of unpaid corporate income taxes and failure to file in Case No. 99-13275-ECF-GBN (In re Baptist Foundation of Arizona) on the ground that BFA is a non-profit corporation that is exempt from filing. Moreover, as of the present date, BFA's records do not reflect any amounts being owed to the Department of Revenue.

(ii) *Case No. 99-13289-ECF-SSC* (*In re Foundation Investments, Inc.*): BFA objects to the Department of Revenue's allegations of unpaid sales taxes and failure to file on the ground that BFA's records show no sales taxes were due for the months of October, November, and December 1999. FII received no rental money during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 1999; thus, there were no sales to tax.

(iii) Case No. 99-13347-ECF-GBN (In re Saddle Mountain Park, Inc.): BFA objects to the Department of Revenue's allegations of unpaid corporate income taxes for the years 1996, 1997, and 1998. Saddle Mountain RV Park's corporate income taxes are accounted for and paid as part of the consolidated return filed by A.L.O., Inc. ("ALO"). (See May 3, 2000 Correspondence from BFA to Arizona Department of Revenue) (attached). BFA objects to the amounts claimed for unpaid sales taxes based on an "estimate due to non-filing" for 10/99, 11/99, 2/00, and 3/00. Each of the returns have been filed as part of ALO's consolidated returns, and the sales taxes have been paid, except for 10/99, on which the actual amount of \$204.73 is owed. (See 10/99 TPT-1) (attached). BFA objects to the claims related to allegedly unpaid withholding

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> BFA's May 3, 2000 correspondence erroneously identifies Select Trading Group, and not ALO, as the entity through which Saddle Mountain RV Park's corporate income taxes are paid via a consolidated return.

taxes. BFA's records demonstrate that both the  $4^{th}$  Quarter 1999 and  $1^{st}$  Quarter 2000 returns

have been filed and the amounts paid.

III. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

For the above reasons, BFA respectfully requests that the Court (i) schedule an

evidentiary hearing on the claims brought by the Department of Revenue; (ii) require claimant to

demonstrate its claims by a preponderance of the evidence; and (iii) disallow each claim to the

extent merited by the applicable facts and law.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 7th day of November, 2000.

SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY L.L.P.

Two Renaissance Square 40 North Central Avenue, Suite 2700 Phoenix, Arizona 85004-4441

By: <u>/s/ Craig D. Hansen</u> Craig D. Hansen

Attorneys for Baptist Foundation of Arizona, Inc., and certain of its subsidiaries and affiliates

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May 3, 2000

Arizona Department of Revenue Technical Compliance Service Section, Bankruptcy unit 1600 W. Monroe, Room 110 Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Saddle Mountain RV Park, Inc.

Bankruptcy #9913347 ECF GBN Chapter 11

To Whom It May Concern:

We are in receipt of your letter dated April 21, 2000 regarding the status of past tax returns and payments.

The following is our response:

BAPTIST FOUNDATION
-- OF ARIZONA

1913 EAST OSBORN ROAD, SUITE 250 F.O. 90X 38399 PHOENEX, ARIZONA 85067 602/279/3587 803/756/4876 EAX 602/26/7258

NAME	ACCOUNT #	TYPE	TAX PERIOD	COMMENTS		
Saddle Mountain RV Park	86-0844017	Corporate	1996-1998	Filed as a consolidating company under Select Trading Group (#86-0715866)  All tax returns have been filed. The 10/99 tax return has not been paid as it is prepetition.		
	(7-543240-Z	TPT	10/99, 11/99, 2/00, 3/00			
	117-07576132B	Withholding	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr 1999, 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr 200	Both returns have been filed and paid		

If you have not received the returns listed, please let us know and we will be more than willing to provide copies of returns already filed.

Sincerely,

Erik Anspach

Accounting Manager

cc: Brian W. Hendrickson Mark R. Roberts

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